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# Shopper's Guide

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**VOL. 87 • NO. 14** 

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025



Factory on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. "This show has been like a Golden Ticket inviting us to take the time to dream,

Don't miss Lena-Winslow High School's presentation of Charlie and the Chocolate believe, and embrace the extraordinary parts of our lives, which is exactly what our cast and crew have been hard at work doing throughout the production process of this show," said Director Renee Schultz.

School will present Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. This year, Le-Win's high school

junior high and elementary students to bring this new show to life. This musical production offers a fresh take on the original story, based on the original novel by Roald Dahl.

The world-famous Wiltalent will join forces with ly Wonka, played by Ju-

nior Josiah Randecker, will open the gates to his mysterious factory to a lucky few. Young Charlie Bucket, played by Senior Hannah Pecoraro, and four other golden ticket winners will embark on a life-changing journey through Wonka's

Postal Customer \*\*ecrwss

world of pure imagination including chocolate waterrevealed by Wonka's army

"We have some seasoned falls, nutty squirrels and the talent as well as a great num- Loompas, and they bring great glass elevator, all to be ber of younger students who such joy and energy to the are debuting on the stage. cast," said Schultz.

grade make up the Oompa

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## HOWARD DOUBLER

Howard William Doubler age 76 of Warren passed away on Monday, March 17, 2025. He was born on April 5, 1948, in Freeport, IL to Irvin and Esther (Riemer) Doubler. He graduated in 1966 from Warren High School. Howard then went on to an automotive school in Chicago. Howard worked at Atwoods in Stockton, IL, and for a brief period he left and drove a logging truck before returning to Atwood, also known at Excel and Dura, for over 40 years. He ended his career as a Journeyman/Mechanic. He married Donna Meier on Aug. 7, 1976, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

in Warren, IL. Howard loved to have a garden where he would plant potatoes on Good Friday. He helped with canning and freezing. Howard has special recipes like Firehouse Chili, Brats and Sauerkraut, and beef stew. Howard was a member

Jack E. Reel, 79, of Lena

passed away on Tuesday,

March 18, 2025, at the SSM

Health Center in Monroe, los-

ing a years' long battle with

the progressive effects of a

home explosion in 2007. He

was born to Elmer and Lucile

(Blake) Reel on March 13,

1946, in Freeport, IL. He took

over the family farming oper-

ation at the age of 16, follow-

Wednesday, April 9

from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Elizabeth Community Building** 

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JACK E. REEL



of the Warren could. Fire Department 40+ years. Member of Paul's Luther-Church where served

council and as president. He loved going to car shows. He was very proud of his 36 Ford pick-up, 41 Plymouth, 79 Corvette, and his Chevy Silverado. He loved coaching his girls' softball teams with Art Rendon. Howard also has owned many rental properties throughout his life. He started tiling gardens in partnership with his brother Donnie and he went on to start Doubler Lawn Care where he offered garden tiling, mowing, and snow removal for several locals. Last year Howard was diagnosed with cancer, and his son Brice started running the business with Howard doing what he

ing the death of his father, and

graduated from Lena-Winslow

High School in 1965. Jack let-

tered in three sports and was

proud that his track relay team

qualified for state his senior

vear, with a record that stood

until 1992. On November

25, 1972, he married Jeannie

Crain, and together they raised

three children: Tina, Jen and

Jack played softball for

Howard enjoyed many hobbies as well. He would build and drive racing lawnmowers with Shawn, Brice, Brad, Brianna, Braxten, and Hayden, which would become Doubler Motorsports. He would go deer hunting with his boys and his nephews, Troy and Tracy. They would build hunting shacks and get in a little camping and fishing as well. Howard loved riding the trails with the ATV and UTV's. He would also use the UTV for the hunting crew. He enjoyed attending his children's and grandchildren's sporting events.

Howard is survived by Donna, his wife of 48 years; children- Stacy (Bradley) Anderson of Warren, IL, Lindsay (Jerry) Kent of Apple River, IL, Shawn (Emily) Doubler of Waukesha, WI, Brice (Catharyne) Doubler of Warren, IL; grandchildren- Brianna Anderson, Cameron (Ried Raisbeck) Kent, Braxten Kent,

years, was a member of the Lena Lions, and coached the girls youth softball team. He was an avid Bears, Cubs and Illini fan. After farming, he worked at Dean Foods in Belvidere until the home accident forced him into an early retirement. During his years of recovery, his best buddy became a rescue cat, Bud. This from a man adamant about not having animals in the house! But those who knew Jack knew he was like a good cookie – a little crispy on the outside, but soft on the inside.

He is survived by his wife Jeannie; three children, Tina Brinkmeier (Brad Scheider), Jen Reel (Chris McMillan), and Tim Reel (Tami Bidlingmaier); three grandchildren, Jeff Cheeney, Tamra (Jason) Brown, and Caleb Cheeney; five great-grandchildren, Alyssa Brown (Brian Dorsey),

Hayden (Izzy Haring) Anderson, Zachary Doubler, Evelyn Doubler, Eleanor Doubler, Avery Doubler, and Michael Doubler; sister-in-law Carolyn Doubler; and several brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents; siblings- Donald Doubler, Carol Swearingen, Helen Doubler; father and motherin-law Ruth (Clarence) Meier; grandchildren- Madelyn Doubler, and angel baby Doubler.

A visitation took place on Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL. The funeral service took place at on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Warren, IL. Burial took place at Elmwood Cemetery in Warren, IL. Matt Smith officiated the services. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Carter Brown, Willow Brown, Braelyn Cheeney and Brinley Cheeney; one great-great grandchild, Wesley Charles Dorsey; sister, Teresa Reel; aunt, Pat Reel; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Price on February 17, 2025; his father and mother-in-law, John and Maylene Crain; his brother-in-law Ed Crain, and his cat Bud. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Per Jack's wishes there will be no services at this time. The family is requesting if you wish to do a memorial please consider donating to the Friends Forever Humane Society in Freeport, IL, Green County Humane Society in Monroe, WI, or to your favorite charity. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

## **Around the Northern Hills**

Did you know that if you are a Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau member and a customer of Stephenson Service Company that you may be eligible for FS patronage benefits? Qualified purchases you make from FS gives you the potential to become an owner of the company, thereby giving you a voice in its governance. Each year, the FS Board of Directors considers the payment of patronage refunds based on each division's sales and profitability and only pays patronage refunds to Farm Bureau members. If you're not already a member, please contact our office at 815.858.2235 or sign up at www.myifb.org

#### Family Farm Signs

It's that time of year that we are all thinking of planting and sprucing things up around the farm. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm" sign to your landscape? The signs are



17.5" x 23" and cost \$30.

#### **Rural Nurse Practitioner** Scholarship Program

Attention Illinois Registered Nurses! If you are enrolled in a University Nurse Practitioner Program, you could qualify for a \$4,000 scholarship to support your education. This opportunity requires a commitment to serve as a primary care nurse practitioner in an approved rural Illinois community for two years. For more details and to apply, visit RIMSAP.

#### Farm Fun Fact

One-third of the U.S. or 750 million acres, is covered

## MARSS to present Meghan Davis in concert

Society of Stockton (MARSS) will host Meghan Davis in concert on April 25, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Stockton American Legion Hall located at 128 E. Front Avenue. Meghan Davis is an area favorite guitar and vocal performer from Northwest Illinois.

Davis's easy-listening solo acoustic shows provide an enjoyable, relaxing, and fun atmosphere that anyone will appreciate. Her shows con-

Music Art and Recreational sist of current hits and music from the past five decades including classic rock, pop and a little bit of country. She features hits from a wide array of artists such as James Taylor, Carly Simon, The Eagles, Simon and Garfunkel, John Denver, Taylor Swift, Jackson Browne, Elton John, REO Speedwagon, Tom Petty, and many more. Meghan enjoys communicating with her audiences through her charismatic personality and arguably hilarious dad jokes. Admission is free, but a collection for future concerts will be taken.

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## River Ridge FFA celebrates a year of success

President Sawyer Fry, VP Nick Cobine, Reporter Ella Dittmar, Secretary Gracie Allen, Treasurer Bindi Boop, Sentinel Wyatt Ritchie and Historian Hayden Diehl Tare make up the newly elected officer team for 2025-2026.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing **Retiring President Graci** Vanderheyden and retiring VP Izzy Haring.

## News briefs

#### Orangeville High School fundraiser

On April 5, 2025, from 4 o.m. to 8 p.m., Orangeville students will host a soup and sandwich fundraiser to raise money to attend the Royal Highland Show in Europe. Donations will offer financial support to Ashlynn Shultz, Amery Dinderman, and Alaina Dinderman.

#### Easter Egg Hunt

The Lena Park District will host two Easter Egg Hunts on April 12 at Lions Park. Ages 2 to 10 are welcome to attend the event at 5 p.m. Ages 11 to 23 are welcome to attend for flashlight hunt at 7:30 p.m. avants are fra



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Discovery Degree recipients Christian Morhardt (STAR Discovery award), Sam Cobine, Damian Ware and Justice Easter.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishi Gracie Allen and Bindi Boop celebrate their awards.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lily Lucas, Jason Lucas and Wyatt Lehman all received Chapter or Greenhand Degrees.

### THE SCOOP TODAY

The Scoop Today (USPS #25-737) is published weekly by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC., 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Periodical Postage Paid at Rockford, IL.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to The Scoop Today, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802. Address for payment, correspondence and any other inquiries: 1102 ANN STREET, DELAVAN, WI 53115

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Ads: ads@rvpublishing.com • Legals: legals@rvpublishing.com Billing Office: businessoffice@rvpublishing.com

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## **OPINION**



## **Weekly connection**

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The Scoop and Shopper's Guide

## The smells of the seasons

Ever wonder how things we smell can trigger up all kinds of memories and feelings? For instance, growing up I remember the specific smell of my Grandparent's house. I'm not sure what it was that gave the house its distinctive fragrance, but it had a wonderful warm and inviting aroma. It could have been the smell of Grampa's coat and boots that were in the mud room or maybe it was Grandma's cooking that wafted through the air, but



SCOTT CERNEK

nice. Now, as I get older, I've noticed that my own parent's house seems to have that same sweet smell of yesteryear. As soon as I walk in the door it takes me back

and kept it in a paper bag in my closet. When I got to missing the farm (which was daily) I would take that bag whatever the mix, it was out, unroll the top and let the fragrances of home drift out. In my mind, I was with my family, the cows and not eight hours away in a dorm room. Believe it or not it to my own childhood. helped immensely. I was careful to wrap the bag up tightly in order to save some FREELANCE REPORTERS of the smells of home for the

next day. The seasons too are distinctive in their smells. Have you noticed when the

Years ago, when I was

away at college in Indiana,

I missed home so much that

I actually took an unwashed

shirt that I had worn in the

barn back to my dorm room

farmers are working up the soil in the spring the rich earthy smell of black dirt that floats through the air? The smell of dirt is a wonderful thing, especially for those of us who grew up on the farm. My brothers and I used to ride on the back of the grain drill when my Dad was seeding oats and alfalfa. There was a bench that ran along the back of the drill behind the seed bin, and we sat on it letting our bare feet drag in the freshly turned soil. Once in a while we would even hang off the back of the drill by our hands and arms, and let our legs drag in the soft soil, then we would slip off the back and race in a

See SEASONS, Page 5

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**Slices of life** 

## The opposite of a word-thrill ride

Ready for some fun? I'm not talking about fun in an exciting roller coaster sort of way. That type of fun is always fun, but fun can be all sorts of amusement park

Some are like roller coasters-fast, thrilling and take-your-breath-away.

But that isn't the only type of enjoyment to be found at an amusement park. Sometimes happiness is uplifting like the ferris wheel, or well-rounded like a carousel. Sometimes it is unexpected like bumper cars, or refreshing like the flume on a really hot day.

And sometimes, fun is simply hurkle-durkle.

You read that right, and I'd be lying if I didn't say that typing out hurkle-durkle wasn't fun. Because it was. Saying it out loud is even more fun, if you can imagine that. I'll pause here while you try it yourself.

See what I mean? Words like hurkledurkle make my day. As does conundrum. Superfluous. Catywampus. Tintinnabulation. Kerfluffle. Pulchritudinous. Gobbledygook. Whackadoodle. And squishy. (Mustn't ever forget squishy.)

Why? Because it, like all the others, is quite simply

And, while fun often happens at amusement parks, hurkle-durkle does not. It's a bit of a conundrum.

I'll attempt a simple explanation—nothing superfluous or filled with a bunch of gobbledygook.

First a clue: After a day of kerfuffles with a bunch of squishy whackadoodle types, you typically long for nothing more than hurkle-durkle.

But now I've made the definition obvious.

In some ways hurkledurkle is one of the most beautiful-not to mention pulchritudinous words and



By JILL PERTLER

ideas a philosophies ever uttered out loud. It's akin to tintinnabulation for the soul. For sure it is, to me. Nothing catywampus about that.

Let's cut to the chase: Hurkle-durkle is a 200-yearold Scottish term meaning to linger under the covers of a warm bed long after it's time

Can you imagine anything better? Doesn't hurkledurkle sound wonderfully and incredibly indulgentwithout any calories?

I think so, too.

We all need a hurdledurkle every now and thenand probably more often than

Beyond the compound word that it is, we need the concept of hurkle-durkle in our lives. We all need permission to commit hurkledurkle – in whatever shape, space or time that means for

Sometimes hurdle-durkle might be lying under the soft warm covers. But maybe it means other things, too. Maybe it's stopping whatever you're doing, in the middle of the afternoon, when your favorite song comes on the radio. Maybe it's taking a hurkle-durkle day off from work after an extra long week. Maybe it's reading a long book over a long weekend while hurkledurkling on the couch.

We could all benefit from some hurkle-durkling in our near future.

Word can be funexciting, even.

But they can also be hurkle-durkle. I realize I am

See SLICES, Page 5



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## Church news

#### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. Join on Sunday, March 30, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week will be the Fifth Sunday during Lent and will be celebrated with a "Sing to the Lord a New Song" folk/rock band playing during our service. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-362.

On Wednesday, April 2 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join and no quilting experience necessary.

All the services will be recorded and be available on church's Facebook page and website. Please visit our website and (http://goodshepherdlena.org/)and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/ GSLCLenaIL) for information. Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

#### St. John's Lutheran Church

John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate the fourth Sunday in Lent on Sunday, March 30 at

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, April 1 at 9 a.m. and to play cards and dominoes

on Thursday, March 27 at 1

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

All kids in grades K-5 are welcome to come to St. John's in Pearl City on Wednesday, April 16 from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. and be a part of the Kids Klub. Kids Klub is a monthly adventure supported by the Pearl City area churches and offers a safe and supportive environment where children can hear bible stories, do crafts, play games, and enjoy delicious snacks. All children in the Pearl City community are welcome to come. For more information or to register a child, please contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail. com or call 815-291-6261.

On Sunday, April 6 St. John's members and friends can go out for lunch at Lake Carroll (Candlelight Inn) at 11:30 a.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Also on this date, we will be showing the DVD "Jesus", a Branson Sight and Sound Production, at 1:30 p.m. upstairs at St. John's. Members and friends are welcome to attend.

The April Grace Meal will be on Sunday, April 27 instead of April 20. It will be a community meal served by St. John's, Faith United Methodist Church, and Zion Church. The menu will be ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, ap-

in Christ, and manifests

of the knowledge of Him in every place." When

the Holy Spirit indwells

one's life there is a certain

is emitted. It is a way of

life that involves living in

humble thanksgiving for the

salvation we do not deserve. It also speaks of the prayers

of believers as being a sweet

fragrance to the Lord. It's

pretty incredible to know

that special that He looks

that God thinks we are

recognizable fragrance that

through us the sweet aroma

plesauce, and cherry cobbler. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, April 24. Meals can be picked up at the church on April 27 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., or you can choose to dine in Luther Hall at St. John's between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, April 3 at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

#### **Evangelical Free** Church of Lena

Join each Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church of Lena to celebrate the Lenten season with music.

The schedule includes: March 26: Freeport Sacred Youth Choir

April 2: Will Mueller April 9: Gone Fishin' April 16: DELTA II

#### **Upcoming Lent** services

Three local churches are hosting food and music services in the anticipation of Easter morning. These events are free, fun and everyone is welcome.

Sunday, March 30 Bolton Community Church 3582 S. Bolton Rd., Free-

5:30 p.m. Refreshments 6 p.m. Service (Hymn Sing) Sunday, April 6

Willow Valley Church 6522 S. Willow Rd., Stock-

5 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Dinner

6 p.m. Music by Christ's Country Choir

Sunday, April 13 Calvary Church of Stockton

7 p.m. Snacks

315 W. Maple Ave 6 p.m. Music (Finding Grace Praise Band)

#### Calvary Church

A service will be hold on Sunday, April 6 at the Willow Valley Church, 6522 S Willow Rd. There will be a

soup and sandwich luncheon starting at 5 p.m. followed by Christ's Country Choir at 6

The last Joint Lenten Service will be on Palm Sunday evening, April 13. The Calvary Praise Team, "Finding Grace" will be giving a program at 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow at 7 p.m. on Fellowship Hall.

Calvary will have its monthly potluck on April 6. A special Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 17 and a Good Friday Service on April 18. All are invited to any of these services.



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## One word per block for up to 40 words

Deadline to sign up is Monday, April 21! Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!! 488874

#### • **Seasons** (Continued from page 4) wild sprint to see who could "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph

get back to the drill first. My Dad would putt along with the old Farmall "M" pulling the drill while we played back there in the dirt until it was too dark to see. When we came in hungry and tired. Mom would shuffle us right off to the bath tub for a dip before supper. Needless to say the water was quite black when we finished our bath. We didn't have showers back in the day.

Like the fragrances that fill our lives, the Bible talks about our salvation having a sweet aroma giving the Christian's life a distinctive scent. The Apostle Paul

forward to and enjoys our worship and prayer. Until writes in 2 Corinthians 2:14, next week, God bless! • **Slices** (Continued from page 4)

stretching the term a bit. But why not?

Lingering under the covers, into the late morning, long after you were supposed to get up and get about your day is an easy feeling to replicate into the rest of your

It's a beautiful and even (dare I say) pulchritudinous idea. In that vein, I say go ahead and hurkle-durkle whenever you are able. Well, so long as it doesn't cause any kerfluffles. Jill Pertler is an award-

winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Saturday, April 5 - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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## **Country Crossroads Quilt Guild quilt** show April 11-12

The Country Crossroads Quilt Guild (CCQG) will present their annual quilt show, "Garden of Quilts," on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12. The show will be held at the Jane Addams Community Center, located at 430 W. Washington St. in Cedarville. Hours for the show are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 11 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 12. Admission is \$5 per person.

ĆCQG meetings Church on the third Monday of each month, except December, at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are always welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues

For more information, call program committee chair Kay Walker at 815-275-2904, or Guild president Jennifer Newcomer at 708-774-3279.

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## Unemployment down, jobs up in majority of metro areas in January (+400), Mining-Construction Trade-Transportation-Utili-

ployment rate decreased in 11 metro areas and increased in one for the year ending January 2025, according to data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in six metropolitan areas, decreased in five, and was unchanged in

creased over the last year in most metro areas and payroll remains steady, Illinois continues to prioritize region-specific support for jobseekers through local workforce partners," said Deputy Governor Andy Manar. "Illinois also remains laser-focused on investing in our incomparable workforce and creating a positive business environment to bolster economic opportunity

#### **Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates** (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

(percent) for Local Counties and Areas			
Labor Market Area	Jan 2025	Jan 2024	Over-the- Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	6.7%	8.2%	-1.5
Winnebago County	5.6%	6.8%	-1.2
Cities			
Belvidere City	7.5%	8.9%	-1.4
Freeport City	5.2%	6.4%	-1.2
Rockford City	6.3%	7.4%	-1.1
Counties			
Bureau County	6.6%	7.7%	-1.1
Carroll County	5.6%	6.0%	-0.4
DeKalb County	4.9%	5.8%	-0.9
Henry County	5.8%	5.9%	-0.1
Jo Daviess County	4.9%	5.9%	-1.0
Kane County	5.4%	6.4%	-1.0
Lee County	5.0%	5.9%	-0.9
McHenry County	4.8%	4.5%	0.3
Ogle County	5.6%	6.8%	-1.2
Stephenson County	5.3%	6.2%	-0.9
Whiteside County	5.1%	5.7%	-0.6

## Stephenson and **Carroll County Farm** Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

How Farm Bureau (FB) served our members in Feb-

Illinois Farm Bureau hosted the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, giving members the opportunity to learn about IFB priorities and directly engage with legislators on issues facing agriculture.

More than 425 IFB Young Leaders, including about 85 Collegiate Farm Bureau members, attended the 2025 Young Leaders Conference to engage in networking and meaningful development.

FB hosted two series of seminars that provide continuing trusted information for members. Rules for the Road keeps members informed on transportation regulations that could affect their businesses, and anhydrous ammonia certified grower training is required for growers or grower operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia.

The Family Farm Preservation Act has been filed in

both chambers as SB 1688 and HB 2677. The FFPA reforms the Illinois estate tax to protect the long-term stability of family farms.

#### **Carroll County Farm Bureau Members invited** to Spring Legislative Update

We are excited to announce this event is scheduled for Monday, March 31 from 9 a.m. 10 a.m. at the Carroll County Farm Bureau office. This is a member exclusive event. Please reserve your spot by Thursday, March 27 at 1p.m. To reserve your spot please call our office at 815-244-3001.

### **Spring Rawleigh product**

Kick off spring by ordering Rawleigh Products. The Stephenson County Farm Bureau is now accepting orders for Rawleigh products. Orders will be accepted until Monday, April 21 at noon, with an

See NEWS. Page 12

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Elgin Metro Division (+2.2%, +6,200), the Peoria MSA (+1.8%, +3,000), and the Rockford MSA (+1.5%, +2,200). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg Metro Division were up +19,000 (+0.5%). The metro areas which posted the largest over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Illinois section of the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (-1.1%, -1,000), the Champaign-Urbana MSA (-1.0%, -1,200), and the Decatur MSA (-0.6%, -300). Total nonfarm jobs were unchanged in the Bloomington MSA. Industries that saw job growth in the majority of the 12 metro areas included: Private Education and Health

ment (nine areas); and Mining and Construction and Retail Trade (seven areas each).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Rockford MSA (-1.3 points to 5.8%), the Kankakee MSA (-1.2 points to 6.3%), and the Lake County Metro (-1.1 points to 5.5%). The Chicago Metro Division reported the only increase (+0.3 point to 5.0%).

#### **Rockford MSA**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.8% in January 2025 from 7.1% in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +2,200 compared to January 2024.

Private-Education Health Services (+1,000), Government (+600), Professional-Business Services (+500), Leisure- Hospitality

(+300), Transportation-Ware- ties (-50) and Leisure- Hoshousing-Utilities (+200),Other Services (+200) and Financial Activities (+100) sectors had payroll gains overthe-year. The Manufacturing (-600), Retail Trade (-200), Wholesale Trade (-200) and Information (-100) sectors had the employment declines from a year ago.

#### **Ogle County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.6% in January 2025 from 6.8% in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -100 compared to January 2024.

The Government (+125), Construction (+100) and Education-Health Private Services (+50) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Manufacturing (-125), Financial Activities (-100),

pitality (-50) sectors had the largest employment declines from a year ago.

#### **Stephenson County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.3% in January 2025 from 6.2% in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +200 compared to January 2024.

Manufacturing The (+150), Government (+100), Education-Health Services (+75), Professional-Business Services (+50) and Leisure-Hospitality (+50) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Other Services (-150), Financial Activities (-75), Information (-25), Trade- Transportation-Utilities (-25) sectors had employment declines from a year

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#### Stockton-Warren opens 2025 softball season with thrilling victory pond, Payton Goswick roped Ireland Mensendike brought

Stockton-Warren The Warhawks got their 2025 softball season started with a bang when they faced off with the Jefferson J Hawks on March 17. You couldn't ask for a better season opener as it came down to the wire. Not only was it an

exciting game, but the Wartheir season opener.

Stockton-Warren, went just 5-14 last season, is already 20-percent of the way to tying that mark this season. It was an important sign of improvement in head coach Joel Fonseca's second season leading the program.

After just five wins last hawks picked up a win in year, Fonseca returns for year two with a more experienced squad. With experience comes learning how to win, and the Warhawks found a way to win an ugly one in the season opener. Both teams combined for eight errors as the gloves had to shake off some rust.

The Warhawks didn't have any trouble getting their offense going. In the very first Stockton-Warren took a 1-0 lead when Maizy Fonseca scored on an Adrianne Baker groundout. They added to their lead in the second inning. Shortly after Emma Janecke reached on a single up the middle, she would attempt to steal third. An errant throw would allow Janecke to score, putting the Warhawks up 2-0.

Stockton-Warren blew the game wide open in the With ducks on the

Shopper's Guide

a double to center field. That allowed Sadie Johnson to score, putting the Warhawks up 5-0. A big reason for the early advantage was the pitching of Madalynn Perry. After three innings, Perry had allowed just three hits, while striking out four. In the fourth inning, Perry got out of trouble. With two outs and the bases loaded, Perry got a groundball out to keep the shutout alive.

Éventually, Jefferson was going to crack the scoreboard. Eventually came in the top of the fifth, when the J Hawks opened the inning with back-to-back home runs to open the inning. Jefferson scored three runs in total in the inning, bringing them right back into the game.

The Warhawks got one of those runs back in the bottom half. After taking a walk, Baker would quickly steal second, and then third.

her home as a ground out to shortstop allowed Baker to score. After five innings of play, Stockton-Warren was up 6-3.

Jefferson had found their rhythm at that point. They continued to have hot bats in the sixth as a pair of singles brought in two more runs. Not only did they bring themselves within one, but they managed to keep the Warhawks off the board in the bottom half. That was just one of two half innings where the Warhawks went scoreless on the day.

By the top of the seventh, the momentum had completely flipped. Not only did the J Hawks tie the game, but a double and three walks allowed them to take their first lead of the day. Heading into the bottom of the seventh, the Warhawks were trailing 6-8.

This was a position the

times last season. suffered four losses by two runs, or less. That is the difference between going 5-14 or 9-10 and being around five hundred. That's exactly what Joel's goal is for this year's team, to compete and get their record over five hundred.

The Warhawks took a step in the right direction when they woke their bats up for an epic victory in the bottom of the eighth. After a quick strike out, the Warhawks were down to their final two outs. Maizy provided some hope when she ripped a double up the middle, bringing in Carissa Hinderman With two outs, to score. trailing by one, Mensendike stepped up to the plate. After taking the first pitch, Mensendike crushed a twowalk off home run

See VICTORY, Page 12

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By Trenten Scheidegger CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville Broncos looked like a well-oiled machine when they stepped onto the softball field for the first time in 2025. Head coach, Lon Scheuerell, was entering his 24th season at the helm of the program. Orangeville was coming off a season in which they finished 22-8 overall, including winning a Regional Championship. Despite losing six seniors, including two All-State players in Megan Holder and Meghan Carlisle, the Broncos were as dominant as ever in the 2025 season opener.

A big reason for the hot start was because Orangeville still returns plenty of talent to their roster. Senior pitcher-second baseman. Addvson Wheeler, and junior first base-outfielder, Anicka Kraft, are both back after earning All-Conference selections last year. Wheeler was a First Team All-Conference and a Third Team All-State selection in 2024. Kraft has earned Second Team All-Conference in back-to-back seasons. Those two alone give Orangeville two stars to build around, and those stars have shined brightly early in 2025. On March 17 the Bron-

Thunder. Orangeville won by a score of 14-4, led by Wheeler's quick start. Wheeler, who is committed to continuing her softball career at Wisconsin Lutheran College, rattled off a pair of hits in the opener. She drove in two runs, while scoring a pair of runs herself. She also got the win from the pitcher's circle. In four innings, Wheeler struck out three, while allowing two earned runs off two hits.

Junior center fielder, Jada Reed, had an excellent season opener as well. Reed went two for three with two runs scored and one RBI as she helped the Broncos start 1-0. Reed stepped into the centerfield role after Kraft made the move to first base. Kraft played first in travel ball, so the transition worked out well for the Bronco defense. Reed's speed in the outfield is one of the team's strengths, Scheuerell says. 'One strength that we will be counting on is our team speed. We will have a fast team throughout the lineup, including Jada Reed, who will be the lone slap hitter in the lineup," Scheuerell shared.

Kraft, who hit seven homeruns in her first two seacos played their home open- sons, is also expected to be a

year. After having one hit in the opener, Kraft broke onto the scene with three hits in game two. Kraft went three for five with three runs scored and five RBI.

The Broncos needed every bit of Kraft's help as they found themselves in a shootout with Milledgeville. Thanks to a five-run sixth inning, the Broncos managed to hold on for a 17-15 victory over Milledgeville. Both offenses were firing as the teams combined for 35 hits in the epic showdown.

Sophomore third baseman-catcher, Abigail Hazzard, had an excellent performance against Milledgeville.

MADE IN THE USA

Orangeville Broncos off to 3-1 start in 2025 softball season er against the West Carroll major part of the offense this Hazzard went three for five with five RBI and two runs scored. That includes a double and a home run as Hazzard was a tough out. Junior designated player-outfielder, Lily Rodebaugh, racked up three hits, three RBI, and two runs scored of her own.

Prior to the season, Scheuerell shared some of his thoughts on the upcoming campaign. When asked what challenges the team would face this season, Scheuerell mentioned the need for some new faces to step up. The Broncos had some big shoes to fill. "We lost six seniors from last year, so there will be a lot of new faces on the field. Our success will de-

pend heavily on how quick- star. At the time, Scheuerell ly these players adjust to playing at the varsity level," Scheuerell shared.

Hazzard was one of many underclassmen who Scheuerell specifically mentioned would need to contribute early on. Sophomore shortstop, Kylie Blakely, and junior second baseman, Aubrey Fryer, were two others. Fryer had two hits in the game against Milledgeville.

Another name that Scheuerell mentioned was freshman Jillian Carlisle, the younger sister of Meghan Carlisle. Yes, the Broncos have another Carlisle, and it looks like she is already on pace to be the next softball

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said, "Freshman, Jillian Carlisle may also see significant playing time in the field." That was just five days before Carlisle put up a three for five stat line in a varsity game where she scored three runs. In fact, the freshman would tally hits in each of her first three games of the season, before going hitless in a game against Winnebago.

That game wound up being the first loss of the season for Orangeville, as they fell by a score of 8-11. Orangeville doesn't return home until April 3 when they play host to the Pecatonica Indians. That game is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

Se Habla

**Español** 

## **Lena-Winslow battles** through 2025 softball season openers

By Trenten Scheidegger CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panther softball program entered a new era this year with new head coach, Joel Wild, taking the helm. The Panthers and Wild didn't get much time to settle in, as they faced off with two good teams in Erie-Prophetstown and Winnebago to open the 2025 sea-

The 2025 Panthers returned to the field as a team that has lost back-to-back Regional Championships. Last year, the Panthers went 12-12 overall, but they lost seven players from that roster, including four starters. In addition to switching head coaches, it's understandable that it

could take some time for the 2025 Panthers to develop.

There is no shortage of softball talent on the field. outfielder-pitcher, Senior Rachael Setterstrom, is back after earning First Team All-Conference and First Team All-State selections last year. Senior pitcher-utility, Maddy Chiles, is back after earning a First Team All-Conference selection of her own. Three other seniors returned to the starting lineup in catcher Shayleigh Albright, second baseman Chloe Wild, and utility Eden Dietz. Additionally, the Panthers have sophomore shortstop Brianna Fye

See SOFTBALL, Page 16



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THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE Wednesday, March 26, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT

**COURT OF THE 15TH** 

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF Stephenson

- Freeport, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION

JACK D. BREIT;

LERISA D. LEIF;

DEVELOPMENT

**AUTHORITY**;

**CLAIMANTS** 

Defendant

ILLINOIS HOUSING

UNKNOWN OWNERS

**CALENDAR** 

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STATE OF ILLINOIS.

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Plaintiff

#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

property will NOT be open residence. for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 24-213628 **INTERCOUNTY** JUDICIAL SALES **CORPORATION** intercountyjudicialsales. 24 FC 30 com I3262068 (Published in PUBLIC NOTICE is The Shopper's Guide March 12, 19, 26, 2025) hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above IN THE CIRCUIT entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation **COURT OF THE 15TH** will on April 16, 2025, at JUDICIAL CIRCUIT the hour 1:30 p.m., Securi-STEPHENSON COUNTY ty First Title Company, 205 - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS West Stephenson Street, ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., the following described **PLAINTIFF** THIRTY-NINE (39) AS DESIGNATED CAROLYN S. GRAHAM; UPON PLAT NO. 2 VAL-VILLAGE OF LEY MEADOW SUB-CEDARVILLE; DIVISION, OF A PART **DEFENDANTS** OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE NO. 2024FC46 Judge Olson OUAR-Address: 140 E. Walnut TER (1/4) OF SECTION Cedarville, IL 61013 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF THE FOURTH PRIN-PUBLIC NOTICE CIPAL MERIDIAN, THE HEREBY **GIVEN** that PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIpursuant to a Judgment of VISION IS RECORDED Foreclosure and Sale en-IN BOOK H OF PLATS tered in the above cause on ON PAGE 73 IN THE RE-January 14, 2025, I, Sheriff CORDER'S OFFICE OF of Stephenson County, Illi-STEPHENSON COUNnois, will on April 17, 2025 TY, ILLINOIS; SITUATat the hour of 9:30 AM at ED IN THE COUNTY Stephenson County OF STEPHENSON AND Courthouse, 15 North Ga-

lena, Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following LOT 316 IN THE VIL-LAGE OF CEDARVILLE, SITUATED IN THE VIL-LAGE OF CEDARVILLE, COUNTY OF STEPHEN-SON AND STATE OF IL-**COMMON ADDRESS:** 140 E. Walnut, Cedarville,

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**JUDGMENT** THE WAS: **AMOUNT** \$59,087.64 Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information. Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 to a Judgment of Foreclodays following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Con-

dominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-SESSION, IN ACCOR-DANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE IL-LINOIS **MORTGAGE** FORECLOSURE LAW. For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: John-

WEST **SOUTHWEST** son, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, THENCE SOUTH 1476.42

541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 24 1073. Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., **Suite 3650** Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: ilpleadings@j ohnsonblumberg.com Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 24 1073 I3262545 (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025) IN THE CIRCUIT **COURT OF THE 15TH** JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson Freeport, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC Plaintiff GLORIA MENDOZA; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND; **UNKNOWN OWNERS** AND NON-RECORD **CLAIMANTS** Defendant **CALENDAR** NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant

STATE OF ILLINOIS SECTION 12, TOWN-FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL SHIP 27 NORTH. RANGE CIRCUIT STEPHENSON 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH **COUNTY-IN PROBATE** PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, In Re the Matter of the DESCRIBED AS FOL-Estate of: LOWS: BEGINNING AT Janet S. Lindenman, A POINT 521.75 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE QUARdeath of Janet S.Lindenman of Freeport, Illinois. FEET, PARALLEL WITH SOUTH SECTION LINE; Administrator of the Estate

10 N. Galena Ave., Ste.210 SITUATED IN HARLEM TOWN-**STEPHENSON** ministered without Court P.I.N. 08-13-12-300-004. supervision unless, under Commonly known as Section 28.4 of the Pro-WINNESHbate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-W. IEK RD., FREEPORT, IL 4), any interested person bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004.

Attorney at Law 10 N. Galena Ave., JUDICIAL SALES Ste. 210 Freeport, IL 61032 intercountyjudicialsales. 815-235-2212 Fax 815-232-5500 (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025)

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terminates administration at any time The real estate is: single family residence. If the by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common the Clerk. interest community, the Claims against the estate purchaser of the unit other may be filed in the office than a mortgagee shall pay of the Clerk of the Court the assessments required at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Gaby subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condolena Avenue, Freeport, Ilminium Property Act. Sale linois 61032, or with the terms: At sale, the bidder representative, or both, on must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective

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**INTERCOUNTY** 

**CORPORATION** 

IN THE CIRCUIT

COURT OF THE

NOTICE FOR

**PUBLICATION** 

CLAIMS

of Janet S. Lindenman,

No.25-PR-27

I3262535

or before September 26, 2025, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Date: March 18, 2025. Laura M. Hartney, By: Anthony V. Coon Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law Anthony V. Coon, (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. #6269568

whose attorney is

Anthony V. Coon

Attorney At law

Freeport, Illinois 61032

The estate will be ad-

independent

Administrator

tonycoonlaw@aol.com (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 26, April 2, 9, 2025)

The following self-stor-

age Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on April 17, 2025 at approx. 1:00 PM at www. storagetreasures.com Cube 1078 Cami McElroy; Cube

March 26, April 2, 2025)

P.I.N.: 07-14-06-102-014 The real estate is improved with a single family

sure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 23, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash,

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TER OF SECTION 12 ON THE SOUTH SECTION LINE, AND RUNNING THENCE 544.15 FEET WEST ON SOUTH SEC-TION LINE; THENCE NORTH 1476.42 FEET

Letters of Office were issued on March 17, 2025, PARALLEL WITH THE Laura M. Hartney HALF SECTION LINE; 1930 W. Church THENCE EAST 544.15 Freeport, IL 61032 as independent

## From Lena's Kitchen



The first day of Spring was interesting. It was cold, windy, and snowy. It will get warmer. We are thinking Spring this week with some spring recipes. Have a great week cooking.

#### **Green Goddess** Salad

The dressing is what makes this salad special. You make it in the food processor, and add it to cabbage, snap peas and cucumbers.

2 C. baby spinach

½ C. basil leaves

½ C. fresh parsley

5 T. fresh lemon juice

1/4 C. olive oil

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> C. Parmesan cheese

11/2 t. salt

1 t. pepper

2 garlic cloves

1 avocado

1 green onion, shopped

Salad

8 oz. snap peas, sliced on the diagonal into ¼ inch piec-

4 green onions, thinly sliced 1 large English cucumber,

thinly chopped ½ head green cabbage fine-

ly chopped

In a blender. Dressing: combine the spinach, basil, parsley, lemon juice, oil. Parmesan, salt, pepper, garlic, avocado and green onions. Blend until smooth.

Salad: In a large bowl, toss together the snap peas, onions, cucumber and cabbage. Add the dressing and toss to coat well. Season with more salt if needed.

#### **Broccoli Mushroom Bake**

This is a great side that really could be used for a meatless meal during Lent. It uses a lot of prepared ingredients, so it is

1 t. canola oil

½ lb. fresh mushrooms, finely chopped

1 tube (16.3 oz.) refrigerated flaky biscuits

1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen broccoli with cheese sauce

3 eggs

1 can (5 oz.) evaporated milk

1 t. Italian seasoning ½ t. garlic powder

½ t. salt

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> t. pepper

2 C. shredded Colby-Monterey Jack Cheese

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add mushrooms

and onion and stir until tender. 4 to 6 minutes. Cut each biscuit into 8 pieces, and place in a greased 9x13 baking dish. Top with mushroom mixture. Cook broccoli with cheese sauce according to package directions. Spoon over mushroom mixture. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, milk and seasonings. Pour over the top. Sprinkle with cheese and bake until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes.

#### Greek Spaghetti with Chicken

This main course dinner has the vegetable and the meat along with the starch. You can use rotisserie chicken or canned chicken for an easy

1 pkg. (16 oz.) spaghetti broken into 2-inch pieces

3 C. cubed cooked chicken

2 pkg. (10 oz. each) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry

2 Cans cream of chicken

1 C. mayonnaise

1 C. sour cream

3 celery ribs, chopped

1 small onion, chopped

½ C. chopped green pepper 1 jar (2 oz.) diced pimentos,

½ t. lemon pepper season-

C. shredded Monterey Jack cheese

½ C. breadcrumbs

½ C. shredded Parmesan

Cook spaghetti according to package directions; drain. Return spaghetti to saucepan. Stir in chicken, spinach, soup, mayo, sour cream, celery, onion, green pepper, pimentos and lemon pepper. Transfer to a greased 9x13 pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Top with Monterrey Jack cheese. Spread breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese over mixture. Bake uncovered in a 350 oven for 25 to 30 minutes until heated through.

#### **Seafood Casserole**

Our Lenten entrée this week combines rice with seafood. You could substitute the imitation crab for the frozen or canned crab if you want. This creamy casserole will be great with a salad and crusty bread.

1 pkg. (16 oz.) long grain and wild rice

1 lb. frozen crabmeat thawed or 21/2 C. canned lump crabmeat, drained

1 lb. cooked shrimp, peeled, deveined and cut into 1/2 inch

2 celery ribs, chopped

1 medium onion, finely chopped

½ C. finely chopped green

1 can (14 oz.) mushroom

stems and pieces, drained

1 jar (2 oz.) pimentos, drained

1 C. mayonnaise 1 C. 2% milk

½ t. pepper

Dash Worcestershire sauce

1/4 C. breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 375. Cook the rice according to package directions. In a large bowl, combine the crab, shrimp, celery, onion, green pepper, mushrooms and pimentos. In a small bowl, whisk the mayo and, milk, pepper and Worcestershire sauce; stir into seafood mixture. Stir in rice.

Transfer to a greased 9x13 greased baking dish. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake, uncovered until bubbly, 40 to 50 minutes.

#### **Strawberry** Cheesecake Bars

These spring bars would be great for Easter. They do take a little time for preparation. Using the vanilla crème sandwich Oreos is a great way to make the crust.

1 lb. strawberries, hulled and halved

½ C. sugar

1 T. Freshly squeezed lemon inice

1 t. vanilla

1 T. cornstarch

#### Crust

40 vanilla crème sandwich cookies

6 T. salted butter melted **Filling** 

2 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened

2/3 C. sugar

1 T. flour

½ t. vanilla

½ t. lemon zest 1/4 t. salt

½ C. sour cream, room temperature

5 or 6 drops red food color-

Strawberry Swirl: In a small saucepan, combine the strawberries, sugar, lemon juice, and vanilla over medium high heat. Bring to a gentle boil, stirring often, and cook until the strawberries are very soft, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and use a potato masher to mash the berries into a pulp. Pour the mixture into a fine mesh strainer over a bowl. then use a spoon to vigorously stir until most of the liquid has been forced through. Discard the remaining fruit pulp. Carefully skim as much of the foam off the top of the sauce. Return the sauce to the pan. In a small bowl, combine the cornstarch with 2 T. of water. Pour mixture into the strawberry mixture and with a whisk cook until thickened.

Processes the sandwich cookies in a food processor until finely crushed. Add the melted butter and pulse to combine. Preheat oven to 325. Spray a 9x13 pan with cooking

spray; line it with parchment paper and spray again. Press the cookie mixture into the bottom of the parchment-lined pan. Bake until fragrant and dry to the touch, 10 to 12 min-

Filling: In the bowl of a mixer fitted with the paddle, beat the cream cheese, sugar, flour, vanilla, lemon zest, and salt on medium speed until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes.

Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl. Beat in sour cream until well combined. Beat in the eggs, 1 at a time, just until combined, scraping the bottom and sides of the bowl as needed. Beat in 5 or 6 drops of red food coloring until desired pink is achieved. Pour mixture into the prepared pan, spreading it evenly with a spatula. Bake the cheesecake to thicken the filling. Remove to a wire rack.

Spoon small dollops of the cooled strawberry mixture over the top of the cream cheese filling; use a toothpick to swirl the strawberry mixture throughout the cheesecake mixture. Bale the cheesecake until just set in the center 35 to 40 minutes. Cool the cheesecake to room temperature for at least 2 hours or overnight.

See KITCHEN, Page 16

#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

The Shopper's Guide

March 26, 2025)

#### ANNUAL TOWN **MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

To the legal residents of

the Town of West Point in the County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, that ANNUAL MEET-ING of said Town will take place on TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 being the second Tuesday of said

month. The Town Meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the

hour of 6:30 o'clock P.M. on said day at West Point Township Building, 6890 N. Five Corners Rd., Lena, and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider re-

ports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law,

> come before the meeting. AGENDA:

1. Call to order

2. Election of Moderator

3. Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting

4. Annual Financial Reports

5. Authorize Transfer of Funds 6. Resolution opposing

township consolidation 7. Donations

8. Open Forum

9. Adjournment

Dated at Lena, this 20th day of March, 2025.

**BILL STATON CLERK** 

(Published in

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Stockton Community Unit School District #206 will have three vacant seats on its Board of Education following the April election. The seats may be filled by a resident of the Stockton School District.

Procedure to fill vacancy:

1. Send letter of interest and any relevant credentials to: Superintendent James Bunting, Stockton CUSD #206, 540 North Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois 61085 by Monday, March 31, 2025.

2. The Board will interview prospective candidates on the evening of Tuesday, April 22, 2024.

Prospective candidates can call James Bunting at 815-947-3391 or email jamesbunting@ stocktonschools.com with questions

> (Published in The Scoop Today March 26, 2025)

**PUBLIC NOTICE** OF RECORDS

469634

Stockton CUSD #206

DESTRUCTION

**Temporary Student** Records and Special **Education Files Classes** of 2019 & 2020

In accordance with FERPA rules. Stockton Community Unit School District #206 Records and Special Education Programs will destroy all temporary student records and special education records for students who graduated or attended with the Class of 2019 or the Class of 2020. These records may be needed for social security benefit applications or other purposes. Stockton School District will provide an opportunity for former students or legal guardians to retrieve these records from May 1, 2025 to May 30, 2025. With proof of identity, the parent, guardian, or adult student may request student files between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at:

Stockton High School 540 North Rush Street Stockton, Illinois 61085

If you would like to claim these records or have questions, please contact Sharon Malone at (815) 947-3323 to request an appointment.

> (Published in The Scoop Today March 26, 2025)

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THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE

## • **News** (Continued from page 7)

estimated delivery of May 7 just in time for Mother's Day. To make this program even sweeter all proceeds from his order will be donated to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation to fund Agriculture in the Classroom and scholarships. Order forms are available on our website www.stephensoncfb.org or by calling 815-232-3186.

#### Trip Spotlight Cubs verse Brewers Bus Trip:

Stephenson County Farm Bureau has a limited number of spots left for our Sunday, May 4 bus trip to the Brewers stadium to watch the Cubs and Brewers face off. To learn more about this trip visit www.stephensoncfb.org under the "upcoming trips" tab. Or call 815-232-3186.

#### Stephenson County Farm Bureau Scholarships due Friday, April 4

Stephenson County Farm Bureau offers scholarship for high school seniors graduat-

study agriculture next fall. Additionally, the foundation offers scholarships for current students studying but agriculture and non-agriculture related fields. To apply visit our website www.stephensoncfb. org under the "news" tab and use the scholarship link. This application can be completed online. If you have questions, please call our office at 815-232-3186 or email manager Victoria Hansen at manager@ stephensoncfb.org.

#### Illinois Farm Bureau awards more than \$100,000 in rural development grants to local projects

In an effort to elevate rural communities, Illinois Farm Bureau partnered with county Farm Bureaus (CFBs) to award 23 Rural Development Grants totaling \$105,000 to support local projects across the state. Of the grants awarded, eight are fulfilling rural emergency services needs and 15 are

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ing this spring who plan to projects focused on econom- Grant recipients this ic or community develop-

"Illinois Farm Bureau is proud to collaborate with county Farm Bureaus to support these outstanding projects that will ultimately elevate the quality of life for those living in these communities," said Ryan Tate, IFB associate director of local government. "We are excited to see the long-term impact of these grants in the years

The Rural Development Grant Program provides resources, tools and support to help local communities and counties overcome challenges inherent in rural development projects, such as lack of funding and volunteers, complicated grant applications and others. In selecting grants, IFB searches for projects that will meet a need in a community, county or rural area and get residents excited about what is happening in their community.

## year are

Xenia Fire Protection District, through Clay CFB, received a grant to purchase a cut off saw kit that will be used for rescues in which firefighters need to cut through metal buildings or objects, such as machine sheds, grain bins or metal roofs.

Greenup Fire Protection District, through Cumberland CFB, received funding to install IV pumps for fluid and medication administration in two ambulances, which could make a difference in patient outcomes during the 25–30-minute drive to local hospitals.

**Édwards** CFB received a grant to purchase enhanced radio equipment for the Albion Rural Fire Department.

Nauvoo Police Department, through Hancock CFBs, received funding for new portable radios.

Williamsfield Fire Protection District (WFPD), through Knox CFB, received a grant for multi-band radio upgrades to streamline communication between WFPD in Knox County and 911 dispatch as well as other fire departments in Peoria County.

Alhambra Community Fire Protection District, through Madison CFB, received funding for a new rural fire district address sign program that will provide identifying address signage that will allow for easier access and quicker response times in case of fire or emergencies.

Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Fire Protection District, through McLean CFB, received a grant for a QTAC trailer for their firefighting rescue skid unit.

Montgomery County Management Emergency Agency, through Montgomery CFB, received a grant for communication upgrades to ensure emergency responders maintain consistent communication across long distanc-

through Bureau CFB, re- LaSalle CFB, received a grant ceived a grant for the Bureau to launch a Dolly Parton

County IL 4-H Clubs, Inc.'s Imagination Library in three food stand repairs and equipment replacement.

Douglas County Economic Development Corporation, through Douglas CFB, received a grant for Placer.ai Software, which will be used as an economic development tool to attract new businesses, help existing businesses retain market share and create targeted marketing campaigns.

Franklin CFB received a grant for its Farm Emergency Plan, a collaboration with local fire chiefs to help with emergency responses at area

Sycamore Acres, through Fulton CFB, received funding to create a one-acre u-pick flower, vegetable and pumpkin patch, as well as two mobile farm stand booths to serve as small business incubators.

Boyd Healthcare Services, through Greene CFB, received a grant to support the building of a new rural health clinic to provide healthcare and on-site emergency service to northern Greene County.

Warsaw Mercantile. through Hancock CFB, received funding to purchase equipment for their indoor farmers market to better provide the area with access to healthy, locally produced foods.

Jo Daviess Local Foods, through Jo Daviess CFB, received a grant to expand its operations by covering the cost of cold storage, including a display cooler and freezer, for the local food hub.

City of Mendota, through LaSalle CFB, received funding to support the Work Well Mendota project, which will provide a low-cost service for individuals and businesses to receive support to develop business plans, create marketing plans, create succession plans and network with other businesses county-wide to establish and sustain business in the region.

North Central Regional Bureau County 4-H Clubs, Betterment Coalition, through

counties.

Boys and Girls Club of Livingston County, through Livingston CFB, received funding for the Intergenerational Boys & Girls Club of Livingston County project, which seeks to build a new intergenerational community center that will focus on the needs of all residents with an emphasis on children and older adults.

Massac County Youth Fair and Community Center, through Massac CFB, received a grant to support renovations to the Massac County Community Center Building.

West Prairie Water Cooperative, through McDonough CFB, received funding for engineering fees for construction of a second water tower.

Greenview Civic Improvement Association, through Menard CFB, received a grant to help replace the HVAC units in the Greenview Community building.

Mercer County Better Together, through Mercer CFB, received funding for Project Flourish: Building Local Producer Capacity Through a Collaborative Approach, to purchase cold storage for the public-facing retail component of the project.

Baby Sarah's Playground Planning Committee, through Perry CFB, received a grant to build an inclusive, handicap-accessible play area.

## • Victory (Continued from page 8)

over the center field fence to secure a 9-8 victory in the sea-

After getting an early season win, the Warhawks had to wait some time to return to action. Weather caused some schedule changes, forcing Stockton-Warren to go more than a week without playing another game. They are scheduled to return home on March 26 to play host to the Pecatonica Indians. That game is set to begin at 4:30

## FARM CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

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based on research studies that were conducted in countries who had much higher (2-3 times) naturally occurring fluoride levels and unknown contaminants in their water. Community water in the U.S. is kept free of contaminants through a multi-step process at water treatment plants and the amount of fluoride that is added to the water(0.7 mg/L)has been proven to be beneficial and safe for the public. In addition, this report

publications based on a

seriously flawed research

study, there is a growing

concern about the effects of

on children's IQ. I hope that

by exposing these flaws, I

can help our community to

understand why this fear is

To begin, the recently

published article that claims

fluoride and IQ levels were

there is a negative association

completely unwarranted.

between high levels of

community water fluoridation

did not conclude that U.S. community water fluoridation at the recommended level of 0.7 mg/L is wrong or harmful. The confusion that led some people to mistakenly believe that it did has to do with a misinterpreted statement in the report. The report stated that 0.6% of the U. S. population are on water systems with naturally occurring fluoride levels of 1.5 mg/L or higher. The key phrase in that sentence that is being overlooked is *naturally* occurring, as in not the result of community fluoridation. Furthermore, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) that published the study expressed only, "moderate confidence" in this purported

But what is raising red flags of concern throughout the healthcare industry is the way the NTP research was conducted. Not only were the studies that this report were based on conducted outside the United states, but the methodology they used varied in each country. This inconsistency was just one of the reasons the expert peer review panel from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine(NASEM) declared that due to "serious flaws in the conduct, analysis, and presentation," the NTP report "would not survive scientific scrutiny," After two attempts to correct these issues and get approval to publish the report

association.



DR. STEPHEN **PETRAS** Illinois Licensed General Dentist

Flawed research leads to concern

failed, the research team bypassed the NASEM expert panel and choose their own peer review panel for their third attempt.

Although the third version of the review eliminated the meta-analysis that the NASEM panel was most critical of, the other research flaws remained. In fact, a number of these additional flaws were mentioned in an editorial in the very journal that published the NTP

about community water fluoridation of frightened people suing the EPA to stop community water fluoridation in America. In a letter to the EPA that was coauthored by the ADA and twelve other health organizations to advocate for continued support of water fluoridation they explained, "The report hinges on only 19 studies that rely on atypical fluoride exposure, invalid biomarkers, and insufficient sample sizes. These and other issues, including bypassing the expert peer review, raise serious concerns about the report's reliability, transparency, and adherence to established scientific standards.'

There are significant reasons the ADA supports optimal community water All this misinformation and fluoridation. According to the each individual's social determinants of health (SDOH) / nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes) must be addressed to achieve optimal health for the entire population. This includes socioeconomic status. Not everyone can afford to go to the dentist. Even though we are at a time in history when the greatest number of people are using fluoridated toothpaste, not everyone uses toothpaste, and many people do not floss and brush consistently. Access to fluoridated water continues to show a reduction in both the overall incidence of tooth decay and socioeconomic disparities in caries incidence.

See RESEARCH, Page 15

A Great Big

who have sent a donation to help underwrite the Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

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## Rock Valley Publishing

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real estate

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## estate sales

BIG APPLE CANYON LAKE ESTATE SALE - ATV'S, Tools, Kitchenware, DVD's (100's), LP's, CD's, Books and Much More! March 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., March 29, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., March 30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. View photos on estatesales.net search zip code 61001. 14A23 Marina View Dr., Apple River.

#### Estate Sale – rain or shine April $4^{th} - 6^{th} \cdot 8:30 \text{ a.m.} - 4:00 \text{ p.m.}$

454 S. Mapes Dr., Stockton, IL

Bedroom furniture, chairs, bar stools, lamps, and outdoor furniture. Kitchen items including glassware, vintage cornflower corning ware, air fryer, electric blender, cooking and baking items. Household decorations, holiday items, bedding and towels. Miscellaneous antique items, tools, and safe. Severe weather date April 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

## for sale

#### **Announcements**

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#### **Burial Needs**

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17 Papers

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## Apple River State Bank leads support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library For the ninth consecutive year, Apple River State Bank and First Community Bank

of Galena has renewed the bank's sponsorship of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This transformative early childhood literacy program provides free books to children from birth to age five. With the bank's donation of \$12,500, the program continues to make a significant impact on young readers across the region. United Way of Northwest Illinois serves as the official affiliate for Dolly Parton's Imagination Li-



## Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education

The 101st Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE) Annual Conference was held March 11-13, 2025, at the Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham, IL. The IAHCE theme for 2025 is "Make Time". This is a volunteer organization with the goal of making the community a better place for everyone. Five Stephenson County HCE members attended the three-day conference.

## • **Research** (Continued from page 13)

Lack of preventative care and dental treatment accounts for approximately two million hospital visits a year, not to mention the costs of lost work and school days. In addition, poor oral health affects overall health and is linked to a wide range of systemic diseases. Eighty years of sound scientific research (adhered to established scientific standards) has proven over and over again that community water fluoridation at the optimal level is a safe and effective way to prevent

disease and save money.

The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention has declared Community water fluoridation as one of the top ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century.

Drinking and rinsing your mouth with fluoridated water throughout the day helps strengthen your tooth's surface, making it more resistant to decay. The earlier children are exposed to fluoride, the less likely they are to develop cavities. But children are not the only ones to benefit from fluoride. Adults often experience gum recession and xerostomia (lack/reduction of saliva

and/or poor-quality saliva from systemic diseases and medications). Orthodontic patients at any age, patients with a history of cavities, patients with periodontal disease (especially those who require periodontal surgery) and patients with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities that limit their ability to perform daily oral hygiene ability to prevent the pain the necessity of restorative treatment, which saves money for both families and our health care system.

can all benefit from fluoride's and destruction of decay and

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson -Freeport, ILLÍNOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION **Plaintiff** 

JACK D. BREIT; LERISA D. LEIF: ILLINOIS HOUSING **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:** UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

24 FC 30

#### **CALENDAR** NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 16, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 05-20-32-127-010. Commonly known as 20 ACAD-EMY STRÉET, GERMAN VAL-LEY, IL 61039.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 24-213628 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com

(Published in The Shopper's Guide

March 12, 19, 26, 2025) 468803

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY -FREEPORT, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., **PLAINTIFF** 

CAROLYN S. GRAHAM: VIL-LAGE OF CEDARVILLE; **DEFENDANTS** 

NO. 2024FC46

Judge Olson

Address: 140 E. Walnut Cedarville, IL 61013 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2025, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on April 17, 2025 at the hour of 9:30 AM at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena, Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following

described real estate: COMMON ADDRESS: 140 E. Walnut, Cedarville, IL 61013 P.I.N.: 07-14-06-102-014

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$59,087.64

Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all informa-

Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)

OR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POS-SESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-SESSION, IN ACCORDANCE

SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGÉ FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602 telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 24 1073. Sheriff of Stephenson County Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: ilpleadings@ johnsonblumberg.com

Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 24 1073 13262545 (Published in The Shopper's Guide

March 19, 26, April 2, 2025)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson -Freeport, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC Plaintiff

GLORIA MENDOZA; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendant

#### **CALENDAR** NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 23, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 08-13-12-300-004. Commonly known as 1616 W. WINNESHIEK RD., FREEPORT,

IL 61032.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales De-

partment at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 23-157822 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13262535

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025)

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## • **Softball** (Continued from page 9)

The Panthers are strong up the middle. They have plenty of experience in key positions on the field. With Albright at catcher, Wild at second base, and Setterstrom in center, the Panthers have three experienced seniors up the middle. Fye's talent at shortstop and multiple capable pitchers gives the Panthers some cornerstones to build around this

After two games played in 2025, it's clear the Panthers have a strong defense. In the season opener, Le-Win played a clean game with zero errors. In game two, the Panthers played in some tough conditions. Even then, they had just three errors, albeit some costly ones. Early on, Wild's Panthers appear to have a defense that is good enough to win, but the bats will have to develop.

The offensive approach is one thing Wild is hoping to see improve this season. "Being more aggressive at the plate and on the basepaths" is one specific area Wild mentioned

when asked about the team's entire game, allowing three needs for improvement. Wild earned runs while striking out also mentioned consistent play on defense, both things the Panther faithful saw play out in the first two games.

The Le-Win offense combined for just six runs in their first two games of the season. On March 18 the Panthers went on the road to face off with Erie-Prophetstown. They lost that game by a score of 2-4. Three days later, they played host to the Winnebago Indians in a game they lost 4-6. Although their three errors cost them against the Indians, the offense is going to have to produce more if they want to jump into the win column.

The Panthers had just three hits against Erie-Prophetstown. Two of those hits came from Dietz, who finished the day with two runs batted in. She was a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy lineup as the Panthers struggled to produce anything else. Chiles had the only other hit on the day. Chiles also pitched the

nine.

The Panthers doubled their offensive production against Winnebago, but that inconsistent defense came into play. The Panthers held a 4-0 lead after just two innings of play. Some aggressive baserunning allowed Dietz and Setterstrom to score the first runs of the game. Chiles then struck out back-to-back batters to end the top of the second, and the Panther bats went back to work in the bottom. Dietz ripped a single to right, driving in Setterstrom to score. Ayla Brinkmeier pushed things further as she scored on the throw, putting the Panthers up by four.

It was an early sign of improvement for Wild's squad. The hitters were attacking early, and the added aggression on the basepaths led to some runs. Clean defense and lights out pitching had the Panthers on pace to dominate Winneba-

Things fell apart defensive-

ly after that. In the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings, the Panthers had errors that allowed runs to come in. Winnebago scored five unearned runs on the day, which allowed them to take a late lead over the Panthers.

Eventually, Le-Win fell by a score of 4-6. Chiles pitched five more innings, allowing six hits and one earned run, while striking out seven. Setterstrom pitched two innings, allowing two hits, zero earned runs, and one strikeout. At the plate, Brinkmeier led the way, going two for three with one run scored. Dietz was one for two with a pair of runs batted in.

"In small high schools, you have to be adaptable to the players on the roster, and we have to work very closely with the other programs in the district as many of the athletes are involved in other sports, as well as other programs in the school," Wild shared when asked to share his philosophy as a coach. For Wild, it means much more than simply wins seven years of coaching experience, Wild has a good understanding of the impact our abilities and playing to our he has as a coach. "I believe in developing the player as a whole. Not just softball skills, but helping them grow into adults along the way, preparing them for the next stage, whatever that might be. On play host to Boylan Catholic.

and losses on the field. In the field, I want us to have a fun and positive experience, while competing to the best of

strengths," Wild explained. The Panthers will return to action on Thursday, March 27 when they travel to take on the Eastland Cougars. Le-Win returns home on March 31 to

• **Kitchen** (Continued from page 11)

#### **Final Thoughts**

I think they have managed to squeeze in some games and meets before the winter weather came back. The spring continues to march on. Don't forget the Lenten lunches at Pearl City Methodist on Wednesdays and the music at Lena Evangelical Free.

The Historical Society will present a program on the moving of the log schoolhouse on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. at the museum. They will also have their annual dinner on April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lena Community Center. The cost is \$40.00. The program

will be presented by Alan Wenzel on the history of Lake-Le-Aqua-Na and how it came to be in the 1950's. Tickets will be available at the museum at the March 30 meeting, Engel's Jewelry, Lena Mercantile, or Cindy's Beauty Shop. Have a great week and enjoy our warm up!

We are looking for some Easter recipes. If you find some recipes to share, you can contact us by email or by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, The Shopper's Guide at Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115. Have a great week.



